

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PROVIDING NETWORK PROTECTION AT
INPUT/OUTPUT INTERFACES OF A CROSS-CONNECT SWITCH

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A telecommunications system (10) includes a first
cross-connect switch (12) and a second cross-connect switch
(14). The first cross-connect switch (12) includes a
switching matrix that provides information from a matrix
connection to a selector (28) of an output interface (18).
10 The selector (28) places the information from the switching
matrix onto one or both of a working channel (24) and a
protection channel (26). The second cross-connect switch
(14) receives the working channel (24) and the protection
channel (26) at an input interface (20). The input
15 interface (20) includes a selector (30) that checks a
signal quality of the working channel (24) and the
protection channel (26). When necessary, the selector (30)
sends a request to the selector (28) to bridge the working
channel (24) onto the protection channel (26). According
20 to the signal quality, the selector (30) selects one of the
working channel (24) and the protection channel (26) for
transfer to a switching matrix (22) of the second cross-
connect switch (14). The selector (30) avoids creating and
deleting matrix connections in the switching matrix (22) in
performing protection switches between the working channel
(24) and the protection channel (26).